

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1024

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION urging the Department of Health to review its current immunization program and add the vaccination to prevent invasive pneumococcal disease for children entering child care to the list of required vaccinations.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, along with the rest of the fifty states and the District of Columbia, requires children to meet certain immunization requirements before attending any public school or child care facility; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that children in the United States receive vaccinations against eleven diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, Hib meningitis, varicella, and most recently, pneumococcal disease; and

WHEREAS, while Tennessee has excellent vaccine compliance rates, many children still go unprotected or partially unprotected; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that although safe and efficacious vaccines are now available, thousands of children worldwide die or are hospitalized each year from vaccine-preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS, invasive pneumococcal disease is the number one vaccine-preventable cause of death in the world's children; and

WHEREAS, invasive pneumococcal disease is a group of life-threatening infections caused by the bacterium, streptococcus pneumoniae, and includes bacterial meningitis, bacteremia, sepsis, and bacteremic pneumonia; and

WHEREAS, vaccines remain the best defense available today against certain infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that children attending day care receive age-appropriate vaccinations of the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine due to the increased risk of the day care environment; and

WHEREAS, the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine has been proven to all but eliminate the racial disparity in invasive pneumococcal disease infection rates between African-American children and the rest of the pediatric population; and

WHEREAS, the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine has significantly decreased the number of cases of invasive pneumococcal disease in persons over sixty-five through what is known as the "herd effect"; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, ninety percent coverage levels were met or surpassed in Tennessee for four of seven recommended vaccinations of children aged nineteen to thirty-five months - Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), hepatitis B, measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), and polio; coverage for pneumococcal conjugate vaccinations (for which no target has been determined) showed a dramatic improvement; however, adding the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine to the list of vaccines required for child day care attendance would help ensure that all children receive the full recommended vaccine regimen; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this Body hereby urges and encourages the Department of Health to review its current immunization program and that vaccination to prevent invasive pneumococcal disease for children entering child care should be added to the list of required vaccinations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Health should report its findings, including any proposed legislation, to the General Assembly no later than February 1, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Health.